

Kodiak meat processors to secure your catch into heavy-duty wax-coated boxes so it can be checked as baggage or shipped as cargo with a next day air carrier. See Kodiak Smoking in our Kodiak Island Travel Directory.

If flying back to a foreign country, seafood has to be certified as being caught in Alaskan waters with an embossed State of Alaska seal on the Certificate of Origin. The staff with the Department of Fish and Game and Division of Environmental Health work weekdays only, so plan ahead by working with the fishing boat captain. For more information contact DFG Donn Tracy donn\_tracy@fishgame.state.ak.us or DEH Mike Gardner at mike.gardner@alaska.gov.

#### Sightseeing Boat Charters

Whale watching, sightseeing tour and fishing boat operators offer half and full day charters and remain busy through the summer months following the migration of several species to the northern waters. From the largest marine mammals in Kodiak waters – baleen whales – to fin, humpback, gray, sei, orca and minke whales, the bays and straits surrounding Kodiak Island provide a natural habitat to view these majestic creatures. Steller sea lions and harbor seals have their pups in June and make nearby rock formations or harbor docks their platform to bark and stand their ground. For dinner cruises, whale and bird watching or customized day and overnight trips, consult our Kodiak Island Travel Directory Boat Charters for Galley Gourmet; under Fishing Boat Charters see Blue Dory Lodge and Charters Fish 'n Chips Charters, Island Angler Charters, Kodiak Island Adventures, Runnamuck Charters and True North; these captains will also conduct whale watching and marine wildlife tours in between their fishing charters.

“Whale Fest Kodiak: A Migration Celebration” takes place every spring, with hiking jaunts to whale watch, evening lecture series, child and adult programs offered. For more information visit [www.whalefestkodiak.org](http://www.whalefestkodiak.org).

#### Hunting

Kodiak Island is world famous for fabulous hunting experiences. The Island is home to the Kodiak brown bear, the largest land carnivore in the world, weighing up to 1500 pounds. A hunter is permitted one bear every four years. Sitka blacktail deer are considered the finest tasting venison and the season bag limit is three deer. Kodiak offers a variety of sea ducks including king and Pacific eider, harlequin, scoter, oldsquaw, barrows goldeneye and mallard; the limit is 20 ducks per season. While native Alaskans are permitted to hunt for their own subsistence, specific season dates are set for sportsmen. Professionally guided fair-chase hunts, hunting camps and charters are available during the big game seasons. For more information consult Alaska Hunting at [www.wildlife.alaska.gov](http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov).

#### Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge covers almost two million acres (about 3000 square miles) within the Kodiak Island Archipelago, including two-thirds of Kodiak Island, portions of Afognak Island and all of Uganik and Ban Islands. While the City of Kodiak is accessible by frequent daily flights from Anchorage and is also served by the Alaska State ferry system, the refuge itself is only accessible by bush plane and by boat. The Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in downtown Kodiak offers trip planning resources and orientation film.

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 to provide and protect habitat for brown bears, salmon and other wildlife. The refuge has more than 800 miles of shoreline as well as lakes, marshes, meadows and a spine of rugged mountains rising 4,000 feet from the ocean. In addition to over 3,000



Hiking on Kodiak Island  
photo by:  
Marion Owen

bears, the refuge is home to blacktail deer, mountain goat, red fox and land otter. The bays and estuaries offer excellent opportunities for viewing whales, porpoises, seals, sea otters and sea lions that frequent the area. More than 200 species of birds—including at least 500 nesting pairs of bald eagles—are also found within the refuge. The area is important to sea ducks and other water birds whose combined populations number well over a million birds. Summer brings bank swallows from South America and horned and tufted puffins from deep North Pacific waters.

Recreation activities within the KNWR include wildlife viewing and photography, hunting, fishing, backpacking and camping; fishing in one of the many salmon streams and bear viewing are among the most popular. In addition to Dolly Varden, Arctic char and rainbow trout, all five salmon species are native to the waterways of the refuge. A selection of remote cabins is available to visitors on a lottery/reservation basis.

#### Exploring the Water

Sea kayaking is fabulous around the island, offering intimate views of wildlife and stunning marine ecosystems. Half and full day excursions or extended tours are available. Shuyak Island State Park is a highly ranked kayaking destination.

Scuba diving is another popular way to enjoy Kodiak waters; diving charters and services are

available. If board or wind surfing is an established passion, Kodiak beaches at Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park just north of town and Pasagshak Bay, a 45-minute drive south of Kodiak offer year round surf with 10-foot waves. Local diehard enthusiasts report surfing with killer whales and in the company of bears, surrounded by a dramatic landscape that becomes utterly surreal draped in winter ice; just be sure to bring your wetsuit and helmet.

River float trips provide for leisurely exploration of the backcountry. Local guides offer customized float trip packages or experienced rafters can rent inflatable boats from the air taxi services.

#### Hiking Trails

There are over a dozen trails, some maintained while others are not always well marked. Pillar Mountain (1200 feet), Barometer Mountain (2452 feet), Termination Point, North Sister Mountain (2100 feet), Pyramid Mountain (2401 feet), Near Island and several state parks all provide scenic beauty amid native spruce trees, wildflowers and stunning vistas. At the end of the 16-mile Pasagshak Bay Road, pre-historic fossils can be found at low tide at Fossil Beach.

The Fort Abercrombie Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour highlights the remnants of World War II when the Fort stood by with 8-inch guns to defend

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